

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 § 1.114

U.S. Appln. No.: 10/031,409

Attorney Docket No.: Q68143

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, claims 1 and 8 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2-3 and 9-10, respectively. Claims 2-3 and 9-10 have been canceled, accordingly.

Claims 8, 11 and 12 have also been amended to delete the word "ointment."

Claims 4 and 11 have been amended to delete the language "formed from film."

Claims 4-7 and 11-12 have been amended to change their dependency to non-cancelled claims.

Entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1, 4-8 and 11-12 will be all the claims pending in this application.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Advisory Action indicates that the §102(b) rejection of claims 1 and 6 has been overcome.

At page 3 of the Office Action dated July 8, 2003, claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ueda et al.

In the Advisory Action dated March 16, 2004, the Examiner stated that Ueda et al discloses support members that are made of aluminum and cloth as supports in patches.

Independent claims 1 and 8 have been amended to recite that "the support ... comprises a copolymer of vinyl acetate and acrylic acid, wherein the copolymer is obtained by copolymerizing a vinyl acetate, an alkyl ester of a (meth)acrylic acid with the alkyl having 4 to 14 carbon atoms on average, and a (meth)acrylic acid in amounts of 0 to 90wt%, 10 to 97wt%, and 0 to 15wt%, respectively, and the copolymer is cross-linked."

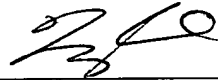
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Ueda et al does not disclose or suggest the use of a copolymer as the support material.
Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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